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A Victim Is Sure of a 2nd Gunman

New Orleans

Robert Bemish considers himself lucky to have been only wounded by a sniper, but he is worried that the gunman might try to return to finish the job.

From his hospital bed Tuesday, Bemish, asked if he could describe the sniper who shot him from 50 feet away, said:

"Yes, I could, but discretion is the better part of valor because the man they shot on the roof (of the Howard Johnson's hotel here Sunday) is not the same man who shot me."

Numerous attempts to ask Police Superintendent Clarence Giarrusso why a witness with information concerning a second sniper remains unguarded were unsuccessful.

UNGUARDED

Bemish appeared to be a sitting duck in Baptist Hospital Tuesday with no police guard visible.

Bemish, 43, vice president of Starr Broadcasting Corp., who was being transferred here from San Francisco, had previously told colleagues in New Orleans that he was wary of receiving any publicity because he was afraid the sniper might return to kill him.

But he did describe how he had been shot and why he felt the man who shot him had not been killed.

Bemish encountered the man when he discovered the hotel was on fire, and he was moving his luggage from his eighth floor room to the patio around a swimming pool which adjoined his room.

"I looked up and a fellow jumped out of some bushes about 50 feet away," Bemish said.

"He looked me in the eye for a full second, then he raised the rifle, cocked the